

Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121, (202) 586-5778, e-mail: Edward.Pollock@ee.doe.gov, or Michael J. McCabe, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Forrestal Building, Mail Station EE-40, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121, (202) 586-9155, e-mail: Michael.McCabe@ee.doe.gov; Eugene Margolis, Esq. U.S. Department of Energy, Office of General Counsel, Forrestal Building, Mail Station GC-72, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0103, (202) 586-9507, e-mail: Eugene.Margolis@hq.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In its administration of the Appliance Standards Program, DOE has published procedures to make the rulemaking process more accessible to the public. (Procedures for Consideration of New or Revised Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Products, 61 FR 36974, July 15, 1996). As part of the revised procedures, the Department pledged to provide "early opportunities for public input to and comment on the analyses." (61 FR 36976).

This notice announces three public workshops by which the Department plans to obtain public comment on the analyses being prepared for Notices of Proposed Rulemakings on revised energy efficiency standards for fluorescent lamp ballasts, clothes washers, and water heaters. In addition to providing interested parties the opportunity to comment on the analyses, the workshops will also provide interested parties with the opportunity to comment on what levels of revised energy efficiency standards proposals they could support from the analyses.

Prior to the public workshops, the Department will make publicly available the analytical results that it presently plans to use in its formal decision process. The material to be presented will be the bases for the Technical Support Documents for the Notices of Proposed Rulemakings. DOE staff and contractors will prepare the material.

These analytical results will be available from the Office of Codes and Standards (OCS) Internet site (http://www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/codes_standards/index.htm), and the DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room. The analyses that the Department plans to provide for review for each product are the results of the engineering cost-efficiency curves, life-cycle costs, paybacks, national energy savings, net national employment

impacts, manufacturer impact analyses, and environmental effects. The complete set of analyses will be available according to the schedule in the DATES section of this Notice.

Once the analytical results are publicly available for each product, the Department will provide periods during which it will receive comments on both the analyses as well as on the policy implications drawn from the analyses. The Department will review and analyze the comments it receives on the policy recommendations and analyses.

Following receipt and review of comments for each product, the Department will conduct a workshop. The workshops will all have similar formats, wherein there will be a summary of the analytical results that will have been publicly available prior to each respective workshop, followed by a summary discussion of the comments received prior to the workshop. Lastly, a senior DOE official will facilitate a discussion on which standard levels participants at the workshop believe can be supported by the analyses.

The Department will conduct these workshops prior to our selection of proposed revisions to the energy efficiency standards for fluorescent lamp ballasts, clothes washers, and water heaters, and the Department will consider output from the workshops in the development of those proposals.

Following the respective workshops, the Department will provide an additional comment period, during which interested parties will have an opportunity to comment on the proceedings at the workshops, as well as on any aspect of the rulemaking proceedings, including what policy implications the commenters might draw from the analyses.

The Department will also consider all comments provided after the respective workshops in its determination of the appropriate revised energy-efficiency standards to propose.

If you would like to participate in the workshops, receive workshop material, or be added to the DOE mailing list to receive future notices and information regarding these workshops, please contact Ms. Brenda Edwards-Jones, (202) 586-2945.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 4, 1999.

Dan W. Reicher,

Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-337-000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

April 30, 1999.

Take notice that on April 26, 1999, Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern), 1111 South 103rd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124-1000, filed in Docket No. CP99-337-000 a request pursuant to §§ 157.205, and 157.212, of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.212) for authorization to relocate an existing delivery point serving Northern States Power Company on the Faribault Branchline located in Rice County, Minnesota under Northern's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-401-000, pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Northern states that the new delivery point will serve as a master meter and provide a central measurement point on the Faribault branchline and that no facilities are proposed to be retired or abandoned. Northern states that the total estimated cost to install the master meter is \$228,000.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to § 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

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